

Message Text

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CEA-01 CIEP-01 EB-07 STR-04 TRSE-00 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 10102

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: LABOR'S EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION SELECTED

REF: (A) LONDON 8799; (B) LONDON 9492

SUMMARY - PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY (PLP) JUNE 26 APRO-
VED AN EIGHTEEN-MEMBER DELEGATION TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
COMPOSED OF 12 COMMONERS AND 6 PEERS. DELEGATION IN-
CLUDES PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO WERE FORMERLY PRO- AND ANTI-
MARKET, WITH PRO-EC GROUP HAVING NUMERICAL EDGE. MOST
OBSERVERS REGARD IT AS ABLE DELEGATION. HOUSE OF COMMONS
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APPROVAL, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN DELAYED BY LIBERAL PARTY'S

REFUSAL TO AGREE TO UNANIMOUS CONSENT, AS NEW DELEGATION LINE-UP REDUCES THEIR REPRESENTATION TO ONE. BIOGRAPHIC BRIEFS ON MEMBERS OF PLP DELEGATION ARE INCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR CHIEF WHIP BOB MELLISH AND PLP CHAIRMAN CLEDWYN HUGHES, AFTER HARD BARGAINING AND SOME LAST MINUTE CHANGES, JUNE 26 REPORTED AGREEMENT ON EIGHTEEN-MEMBER PLP DELEGATION FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (REFTELS). PLP THEN ENDORSED THEIR SELECTION, WHICH INCLUDES 12 MEMBERS OF COMMONS AND 6 PEERS, WITHOUT FURTHER AMENDMENT. DELEGATION REPRESENTS FULL SPECTRUM OF PLP OPINION ON EC, RANGING FROM STRONG PRO-MARKETEERS THROUGH "AGNOSTICS" TO THOSE WHO VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED CONTINUED EC MEMBERSHIP DURING REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. DELEGATION ALSO REFLECTS LEFT/RIGHT IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND REGIONAL BALANCE. NAMES OF PLP DELEGATES, TOGETHER WITH BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES, FOLLOW:

MICHAEL STEWART - AN ARDENT PRO-MARKETEER AND FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY (1968-70), HE WAS ELECTED LEADER OF PLP DELEGATION JUNE 30. STEWART FALLS IN THE MIDDLE OF PLP POLITICAL SPECTRUM, BUT ON SOME DOMESTIC ISSUES IS LEFT OF CENTER. NOT CONSIDERED ESPECIALLY BRILLIANT, HE HAS COMPENSATED FOR THIS SHORT-COMING IN THE PAST BY SUSTAINED HARD WORK. HOWEVER, HIS AGE, 69, INDICATES THAT HE MAY NO LONGER HAVE THE ENDURANCE OF FORMER YEARS. ON BALANCE, HE SHOULD PROVE TO BE AN ABLE, DISTINGUISHED LEADER .

LORD ARDWICK - THE FORMER JOHN C. BEAVAN, A JOURNALIST, WAS AWARDED LIFE PEERAGE IN 1970. A PRO-MARKETEER, HE WAS FORMERLY EDITOR FOR THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN AND THE DAILY HERALD. HE HAS BEEN POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE MIRROR GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS SINCE 1962. AGE: 65.

GUY BARNETT - A MEMBER OF THE LEFT-WING TRIBUNE GROUP, BARNETT OPPOSED CONTINUED UK MEMBERSHIP, BUT WAS NOT ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. A QUAKER AND FORMER TEACHER, HE IS GENERALLY REGARDED TO HAVE A CONFIDENTIAL

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FIRST RATE MIND AND SERVES AS PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY (PPS) TO PLANNING MINISTER JOHN SILKIN. AGE: 47.

BETTY BOOTHROYD - A FORMER ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT WHIP, MISS BOOTHROYD STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE EC DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND BEFORE. PRIOR TO BEING ELECTED TO COMMONS IN FEBRUARY 1974 SHE WORKED AT TRANSPORT HOUSE, WAS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO GEOFFREY DE FREITAS (SEE BELOW) AND

SERVED AS BOROUGH COUNCILLOR IN LONDON (1965-68). AGE:
46.

LORD BRUCE OF DONINGTON - THE FORMER DONALD BRUCE,
HE RECEIVED LIFE PEERAGE IN 1974. HE WAS A MEMBER OF
COMMONS FROM 1945 TO 1950 AND PRACTICED ACCOUNTANCY FROM
1951 UNTIL ENTERING HOUSE OF LORDS. AGE 63, HE WAS AN
ANTI-MARKETEER.

LORD CASTLE - HUSBAND OF HEALTH SECRETARY BARBARA

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2495
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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CASTLE, THE FORMER EDWARD CASTLE WAS A JOURNALIST UNTIL RECEIVING PEERAGE IN 1974. HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER WAS NOT PARTICULARLY DISTINGUISHED. AN ANTI-MARKETEER, HIS HIGHEST ELECTIVE OFFICE WAS AS ALDERMAN ON THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL (1964-70). AGE: 68.

TAM DALYELL (PRONOUNCED: DEE-ALL) - ONE OF TWO SCOTTISH MPS ON THE DELEGATION, HE IS A VIGOROUS PRO-MARKETEER, A LABOR MODERATE AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLP. IN THIS LATTER CAPACITY HE IS EXPECTED TO SERVE AS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPAL LINK BETWEEN THE DELEGATION AND THE PLP. DALYELL IS SOMEWHAT ECCENTRIC, BUT HAS A STRONG SENSE OF INTEGRITY, AND IS AN EXTREMELY HARD WORKER. AGE: 43.

SIR GEOFFREY DE FREITAS - A LEADING FIGURE IN THE PRO-EC CAMPAIGN, HE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE PLP RIGHT-WING AND IS KNOWLEDGABLE IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS AS WELL AS EC MATTERS. A BARRISTER, DE FREITAS STUDIED INTERNATIONAL LAW AT YALE AND IS REGARDED AS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S. HE HAS SERVED IN SEVERAL SUB-CABINET POSTS AND IS ONE OF THE DELEGATION'S MOST ABLE MEMBERS. HE IS 62 YEARS OLD.

GWYNETH DUNWOODY - AGED 45, MRS. DUNWOODY IS ONE OF THREE WOMEN ON THE DELEGATION. SHE OPPOSED CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP AND STANDS LEFT-OF-CENTER IN THE PLP. FIRST ELECTED TO COMMONS IN 1966, SHE LOST THE 1970 ELECTION AND ONLY RETURNED FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY 1974 GENERAL ELECTION. HER FATHER, MORGAN PHILLIPS, WAS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE LABOR PARTY FOR MANY YEARS, AND HER MOTHER WAS A LIFE PEER. SHE WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE TO LEAD THE DELEGATION.

TOM ELLIS - THE SOLE WELSH MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION, ELLIS IS A LEFT-OF-CENTER, PRO-MARKETEER. A MINING ENGINEER, HE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO COMMONS IN 1970. HE IS PPS TO DEFENSE MINISTER WILLIAM RODGERS, AND IS 51 YEARS OF AGE.

JOHN EVANS - A FORMER TRADE UNIONIST AND LABOR PARTY AGENT, EVANS WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN FEBRUARY 1974. HE OPPOSED CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP AND IS CONSIDERED A CAPABLE, MODERATE LEFT-WINGER. AGE: 45.

LADY FISHER - THE FORMER MRS. DORIS FISHER, A LABOR MP FROM 1970 TO 1974, SHE RECEIVED LIFE PEERAGE IN

FEBRUARY 1974 FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTION. A LABOR PARTY MODERATE, SHE DID NOT TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION ON THE EC QUESTION. AGE: 56.

WILLIAM HAMILTON - THE SECOND SCOTTISH DELEGATE,
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HAMILTON IS A STAUNCH PRO-MARKETEER. ON MANY COUNTS ONE OF LABOR'S MOST ABLE BACKBENCHERS, HE HAS A PENCHANT FOR RADICAL CAUSES (E.G., ABOLITION OF THE MONARCHY) WHICH HE PURSUES WITH GREAT ZEAL. HE IS ALSO A FREQUENT PUBLIC CRITIC OF PRIME MINISTER WILSON. THESE FACTORS DIMINISH HIS INFLUENCE IN THE LABOR PARTY, BUT HE COULD BECOME ONE OF THE MORE EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION. AGE: 58.

MARK HUGHES - PPS TO CHIEF TREASURY SECRETARY JOEL BARNETT, HUGHES WAS ANTI-MARKET, BUT DID NOT PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. HE IS A PLP MODERATE, A FORMER UNIVERSITY LECTURER AND CONSIDERED TO BE A COMER IN PARLIAMENT. AGE: 43.

RICHARD MITCHELL - A RIGHT-WING, PRO-MARKETEER, MITCHELL IS ACTIVE IN THE MANIFESTO GROUP, THE RIGHTISTS' ANSWER TO THE TRIBUNE GROUP. SINCE HIS ELECTION IN 1971 HE HAS SERVED ONLY ON THE BACKBENCHES, BUT IS CONSIDERED A SHREWD POLITICIAN. AGE: 48.

JOHN PRESCOTT - AN ESPECIALLY BRIGHT, ABLE LEFT-WINGER, PRESCOTT OPPOSED CONTINUED UK MEMBERSHIP. HE IS VERY WELL INFORMED ON EUROPEAN AND DEFENSE ISSUES. FIRST ELECTED IN 1970, HE WAS FORMERLY A TRADE UNION OFFICIAL AND IS CURRENTLY PPS TO TRADE SECRETARY PETER SHORE. AGE: 37.

LORD WALSTON - THE FORMER HENRY WALSTON WAS GIVEN LIFE PEERAGE IN 1961 AFTER A SERIES OF UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO REACH COMMONS. A FARMER AND BACTERIOLOGIST, HE SERVED IN SEVERAL SUB-CABINET POSTS DURING LABOR'S 1964-1970 GOVERNMENT. HE HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON

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CEA-01 CIEP-01 EB-07 STR-04 TRSE-00 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY AND WILL NO DOUBT BE THE
DELEGATION'S EXPERT ON CAP AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL MAT-
TERS. AGE: 63.

2. FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE UK DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, NORMALLY ACCOMPLISHED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT,
HAS BEEN HELD UP BY THE LIBERAL PARTY WHICH RESENTS
HAVING ITS REPRESENTATION REDUCED FROM TWO (ONE MP AND
ONE PEER) TO ONE. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PARTY LEADER
JEREMY THORPE TWICE APPEALED THE DECISION TO REDUCE LI-
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BERAL REPRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER WILSON AND MAY
RAISE THE ISSUE OF DELEGATE SELECTION WITH THE SPEAKER

OF THE HOUSE.

3. COMMENT: THE PLP DELEGATION REPRESENTS AN APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO ACHIEVE IDEOLOICAL AND REOIONAL BALANCE. AS IS VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NOT THE MOST DISTINGUISHED OR ABLE DELEGATION THAT COULD HAVE BEEN SELECTED, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS THE PEERS. ITS COMPOSITION HAS ALSO LEFT MANY OF ASPIRING DELEGATES UNHAPPY, THE MOST NOTABLE BEING LORD GEORGE-BROWN. NEVERTHELESS, MOST MPS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ARE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT AND BELIEVE IT WILL EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT UK INTERESTS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. ALL FORMER ANTI-MARKETEERS ON THE DELEGATION APPEAR TO REGARD THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION CLOSED AND ARE EXPECTED TOWORK CONSTRUCTIVELY AT STRASBOURG. THE FORMER ANTI-MARKETEERS, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL UNION, AT LEAST FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE LIBERAL'S EFFORTS TO RETAIN TWO SEATS AT STRASBOURG ARE UNLIKELY TO PROSPER, AS A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE CONSERVATIVE DELEGATION COULD RESULT IN A LOWER NUMBER OF CONSERVATIVE MPS, THUS REQUIRING CHANGES IN THE LABOR DELEGATION TO ENSURE BALANCED PAIRING (REF B).

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON10102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750228-0041
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750796/aaaadhpb.tel
Line Count: 356
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 8799, 75 LONDON 9492
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR'S EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION SELECTED
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AORG, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006